## Message Text

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FOR MINKEL AND ANDREGG, US DELEGATION TO PAIGH XI ASSEMBLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, CO, PN, PAIGH

SUBJECT: XI GENERAL ASSEMBLY PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY (PAIGH): US POSITION ON ELECTION OF SECRETARY GENERAL - 1) INGENIERO JOSE A. SAENZ, THE INCUMBENT OF PANAMA AND 2) DR. JAIME JARAMILLO URIBE OF COLOMBIA

1. BOTH CANDIDATES HAVE GOOD CREDENTIALS, BUT SAENZ IS BETTER KNOWN TO THE US NATIONAL SECTION WHICH SUPPORTED HIM STRONGLY IN THE ELECTION HELD FOUR YEARS AGO. THE US NATIONAL SECTION OF PAIGH AND USOAS FAVOR THE REELECTION OF SAENZ BECAUSE IT IS FELT THAT HE IS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BETTER QUALIFIED OF THE TWO. FURTHERMORE, IN THE CASE OF THESE SMALLER TECHNICAL AGENCIES, WE NORMALLY PREFER TO KEEP THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR A SECOND TERM WHERE POSSIBLE IF HE IS GIVING SATISFACTORY SERVICE. EXPERIENCE AND COSTS OF TRANSFERING A NEW SECRETARY GENERAL ARE ALSO FACTORS. HOWEVER, THERE IS STRONG SUPPORT FOR JARAMILLO AMONG

THE SOUTH AMERICAN MEMBER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE FOR SOME TIME DISAPPROVED OF SAENZ'S TERSE MANNER. AT THIS POINT, IT APPEARS THAT JARAMILLO CAN WIN BY A CLOSE MARGIN, BUT THERE ARE STILL A NUMBER OF

UNCOMMITTED VOTES THAT IF GIVEN TO JARAMILLO WOULD MAKE HIS VICTORY DECISIVE.

- 2. THE US DELEGATE WOULD LIKE TO REMAIN UNCOMMITTED UNTIL THERE IS A CLEARER VIEW OF HOW THE OTHER DELEGATIONS WILL VOTE. THIS COURSE OF ACTION GIVES THE US DELEGATION A CHANCE TO WAIT AND GO WITH THE WINNER IF IT APPEARS THAT ONE CANDIDATE WILL CLEARLY WIN; OR TO VOTE FOR SAENZ IF THE ELECTION APPEARS CLOSE.
- 3. BY REMAINING UNCOMMITTED, HOWEVER, THE US DEL MAY GIVE OTHER UNCOMMITTED DELEGATIONS THAT MAY BE PLANNING TO FOLLOW OUR LEAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US DOES NOT SUPPORT SAENZ, THEREBY INDIRECTLY INFLUENCING THEM TO SUPPORT JARAMILLO. IF THIS WERE TO HAPPEN, PANAMA MIGHT FEEL THAT THE US HAD A HAND IN SAENZ'S DEFEAT. TO AVOID THIS ASSUMPTION, THE US DELEGATE SHOULD INFORM OTHER DELEGATES, IF ASKED, THAT THE US IS PLANNING TO SUPPORT SAENZ UNLESS IT IS CLEAR THAT JARAMILLO HAS AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY. THE US DELEGATE CAN BE FURTHER INSTRUCTED THAT SHOULD THERE BE MORE THAN ONE BALLOT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE US WILL CONSIDER ITSELF UNCOMMITTED AND FREE TO VOTE FOR JARAMILLO IF IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT SAENZ CANNOT WIN. THE BASIC U.S. POSITION SHOULD BE TO ELECT THE BEST QUALIFIED CANDIDATE AND TO AVOID GIVING PANAMA THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US HAS UNDERMINED SAENZ'S CHANCES TO BE RE-ELECTED. VANCE

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SECRETARY GENERAL - 1) INGENIERO JOSE TAGS: PORG, CO, PN, US, PAIGH, (SAENZ, JOSE A), (JARAMILLO URIBE, JAIME)

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